

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01254 231459Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

/082 W

-----231552 012508 /43

R 231358Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1904

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1254

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIA MEDIA TREATMENT OF SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. SYRIAN PRESS DEVOTED LONG FRONT PAGE ARTICLES TO MEETINGS SECRETARY HELD WITH FONMIN KHADDAM AND PRES ASAD. PICTURES PUBLISHED ON FRONT PAGES SHOWED ASAD AND SECRETARY SMILING AND RELAXED. PRESS BANNERED: "PRESIDENT ASAD REVIEWS WITH VANCE SITUATION IN AREA AND PROSPECTS FOR MOVEMENT TOWARDS SETTLEMENT. ASAD EMPHASIZES SYRIA'S DETERMINATION TO REACH JUST PEACE. VANCE DELIVERS TO THE PRESIDENT MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. THE AMERICAN SECRETARY AFFIRMS THAT PALESTINIAN CAUSE IS ESSENCE OF CRISIS PREVAILING IN ME."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 01254 231459Z

2. ARTICLE STUCK TO USUAL RECITATION OF THOSE PRESENT DURING MEETINGS AND GENERALIZATIONS CHARACTERIZING TALKS. PRESS REPORTED THAT VANCE HAD DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM PRES CARTER "CONTAINING INVITATION FOR MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS." TALKS SAID TO HAVE "REVIEWED SITUATION IN AREA AND PROSPECTS EXISTING FOR MOVEMENT TOWARDS OVERALL SETTLEMENT BY RESUMING GENEVA CON-

REFERENCE, AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF REACHING JUST PEACE." ASAD REPORTEDLY AFFIRMED SYRIA'S POSITION BASED ON THREE PRINCIPLES OF TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, RECOGNITION OF "FULL RIGHTS" OF PALESTINIANS, AND ENDING THE STATE OF WAR. SECRETARY VANCE EXPRESSED ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO WORK FOR OVERALL SOLUTION AND RECONCILIATION AMONG VIEWPOINTS OF DIFFERENT PARTIES. ARTICLE NOTED THAT VANCE HAD EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE FRANKNESS WHICH CHARACTERIZED ASAD'S REMARKS. ARTICLE WENT ON TO REPORT

SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT IN RIYADH DESCRIBING PALESTINIAN ISSUE AS CRUX OF THE PROBLEM SETTLEMENT OF WHICH IMPERATIVE IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT SOLUTION.

4. ARTICLES FEB 22 GAVE GOOD FRONT PAGE TREATMENT TO SECRETARY'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER KHULAYFAWI. SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT DESCRIBING TALKS AS "FRUITFUL" AND NOTING THAT OUTCOME OF TOUR WOULD BE REPORTED TO PRES CARTER INCLUDED. ARTICLES STATED SECRETARY HAD EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SYRIA WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP. KHADDAM EXPRESSED TO REPORTERS HIS PLEASURE AT MEETING SECRETARY AND CHARACTERIZED TALKS AS "FRUITFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE." HE NOTED TALKS "HELPED PROMOTE POSITIVE ELEMENTS WHICH ASSIST TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN REGION."

5. LEAD EDITORIAL BY SENIOR AL-BAATH COLUMNIST AMID AL-KHULI ASSERTED THAT PERHAPS IT IS WRONG FOR SYRIA NOT TO DEAL WITH US "WHICH IS THE GREATEST POWER CAPABLE OF PRESSURING ISRAEL." HE CLAIMED THAT SYRIA IS SELF-CONFIDENT AND, THEREFORE, CAN ENGAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01254 231459Z

IN DIALOGUE WITH ANYONE "IN ORDER TO CONFIRM ITS STAND AND COMMUNICATE ITS PRINCIPLES OF JUST PEACE AS LONG AS IT IS CAPABLE DEFENDING JUSTICE OF ITS CAUSE AND PRINCIPLED NATURE OF ITS STAND." HE CONCLUDED THAT SYRIA, EVEN IN THE WORST INSTANCE, WOULD LOSE NOTHING IF IT BECAME NECESSARY TO BREAK OFF DIALOGUE BECAUSE IT HAD BECOME FUTILE. MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC01254  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770062-1099  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770218/aaaaaqfo.tel  
**Line Count:** 103  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** eb3661c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3256176  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SYRIA MEDIA TREATMENT OF SECRETARY'S VISIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/eb3661c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009